girls; provision of attendance scholarships; free textbooks and uniforms; exemption from tuition fee; appointment of more women teachers; and provision of separate toilets for girls. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Non-Formal Education, 90% Central assistance is provided to girls' centres. The proportion of girls centres has been raised from 25% to 40% in the Eighth Plan. The introduction of the Mid-day Meals Programme is also expected to have a positive effect on enrolment and retention of girls in primary schools.

Approval to Technical and Professional Courses

1154. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the All-India Council for Technical Education is approving the technical and professional courses offered by institutions other than the universities and deemed universities; if so, which are the examination bodies, for such courses;

(b) whether the AICTE has recognised courses offered by the foreign universities; if so, the names of foreign universities recognised by the AICTE; and

(c) which are the recognised professional and technical courses offered by the foreign universities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) is approving the technical and professional courses offered by institutions other than the universities and deemed universities. Examination bodies for the MBA courses are the universities of the region. In case of Post-Graduate Diploma in Business Management (PGDBM) courses, institutes are themselves taking final examination. From the year 1997-98 onwards the Council is not approving PGDBM courses.

(b) and (c) AICTE has not recognised any course of foreign university.

Dravidian Schools and Universities

1155. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Dravidian languages school/university in the country and their location;

(b) whether any proposal from the Government of Andhra Pradesh for approval is pending; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to assist the setting up of a Dravidian University in Hyderabad for which A.P. Legislature has given clearance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) The Central Government have no details regarding number of Dravidian language schools as such statistics are not maintained. The details of the number of Dravidian Universities are:

(i) Kannada University (Hampi),
(ii) Potti Sriramulu Telugu University (Hyderabad), (iii) Tamil University (Tanjavore).

(b) and (c) There is an established and laid down procedure under the U.G.C. Act for the State Universities to obtain assistance from the Central Grants through the U.G.C for specific programmes subject to fulfilment of certain pre-requisites. these are processed and dealt with in the University Grants Commission.